

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Work Session
in the Conference Room on the First Floor,
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

March 17, 2004

Presiding: Arnold G. Hyndman, Ph.D., President

Secretary: William L. Librera, Ed.D., Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Margaret F. Bartlett
Ronald K. Butcher
Debra Casha
Maud Dahme
Kathleen A. Dietz
Anne S. Dillman
John A. Griffith
Thelma Napoleon-Smith
Roberta Van Anda

ABSENT:

Orlando Edreira
Samuel J. Podietz
Edward M. Taylor

CONVENING

Arnold G. Hyndman, president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of this act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House press corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that by adopting this resolution the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on Wednesday, March 17, 2004.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

World Language Assessment Committee

Commissioner William Librera stated that the World Languages Assessment Committee, comprised of teachers, supervisors, representatives from higher education and state education associations, has studied a range of assessment instruments available in world languages that would be appropriate to serve as competency-based exit test for students who wish to fulfill the high school graduation requirement prior to entering high school. He introduced the committee's chair, John Webb, who outlined the following recommendations of the committee:

- Demonstration of a "Novice-High" level of proficiency, as defined in the Proficiency Guidelines developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is an appropriate expectation for students by the end of the minimum required five credit world language sequence.
- Any assessment instruments used to measure students' proficiency levels for purposes of exiting the world language requirement must be research-based and offer a significant degree of reliability.
- The competency-based exit test should be administered at the end of grade eight or during high school since all students are required to study a world language in grades kindergarten through grade eight.
- No other assessments, including local district options, should be considered at this time.
- The committee should be reconvened to study the assessments options at a future date once the revised world language standards are adopted and implemented.

Revised Language Arts Literacy Standards

The State Board members present and department staff discussed the revised draft resolution to adopt the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the revised language arts literacy standards. The department will present the resolution for the State Board consideration at adoption level at the April State Board public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board adjourned its March 17, 2004 public work session at 3:00 p.m.

William L. Librera, Ed.D., Commissioner
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education